

Washington, DC - This afternoon, Congressman Charles Gonzalez (TX-20) and Congressman Ciro Rodriguez (TX-23) applauded the Committee on House Appropriations' announcement that it has appropriated \$6.5 million for the VIA Metropolitan Transportation Authority in San Antonio. In addition to building a new bus facility, the appropriated federal resources will be used for a bus rapid transit system in San Antonio that will help reduce congestion in high traffic areas of the city. The bill is anticipated to go to the House floor next week for a vote.

The Committee's announcement arrives as the Department of Transportation announced it had awarded the VIA Metropolitan Transportation Authority a federal grant to improve the bus service to San Antonio's largest employment centers.

Rep. Gonzalez and Rep. Rodriguez issued the following statement on the two announcements:

"These resources will help provide a valuable public service to the city of San Antonio. The innovative investment in rapid bus transit will help fight high traffic congestion in San Antonio; coupled with the Department of Transportation's awarded grant, the funds will directly provide a significant boost to our city's economy," said Gonzalez. "I'm proud of the effort already committed by the San Antonio delegation on this issue and I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that this project receives the resources and support it needs," he added.

"As one of the fastest growing cities in the country, San Antonio is very much in need of the smart growth planning and investments that VIA has been an integral part of," said Congressman Ciro Rodriguez. "I have worked closely with my friend Congressman Gonzalez and my colleagues on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation to secure resources to help ease the growing transportation infrastructure needs for San Antonio."

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